Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (currently amended) An inverse ~~Inverse~~ emulsion comprising the product of admixing an aqueous phase and an oil phase, wherein

the weight ratio between the aqueous phase and the oil phase (aqueous phase : oil phase) is from 4:1 to 2:1, and

the inverse emulsion contains ~~containing~~ from 20 to 70% percent by weight of an anionic acrylic polymer, the anionic acrylic polymer being obtained by inverse emulsion polymerization ~~polymerisation~~ of:

one or more anionic acrylic monomers, ~~at least one of which containing a strongly acidic functional group,~~ dissolved in the aqueous phase, and

at least ~~a~~ one hydrophobic acrylic monomer dissolved in the oil phase ~~before the mixing of the two phases~~,

wherein

at least one of the one or more anionic acrylic monomers contains a strongly acidic functional group and

the ~~percentage~~ concentration of the at least one hydrophobic acrylic monomers ~~on the total weight of the anionic acrylic monomers being~~ is from 0.1% to 5% weight percent of the total weight of the one or more anionic acrylic monomers ~~by weight~~.

2. (currently amended) The ~~Inverse~~ inverse emulsion according to claim 1, ~~,~~ wherein the ~~percentage of the~~ hydrophobic acrylic monomers ~~on the total weight of the anionic acrylic monomers~~ is from 0.5 to 1.5 % percent by weight of the anionic acrylic monomer.

3. (currently amended) The ~~Inverse~~ inverse emulsion according to claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein the anionic acrylic monomer is 2-acrylamido-2-methylpropanesulfonic acid and/or its sodium salt.

4. (currently amended) The ~~Inverse~~ inverse emulsion according to claim 3~~,~~ wherein the hydrophobic acrylic monomer ~~are~~ is an esters of acrylic or methacrylic acid with C_4-C_{20} linear or branched monofunctional alcohols.

5. (currently amended) The ~~Inverse~~ inverse emulsion according to claim 4~~,~~ wherein the hydrophobic acrylic monomer is stearyl methacrylate or n-butyl methacrylate.

6 (new) The inverse emulsion according to claim 2 wherein the anionic acrylic monomer is 2-acrylamido-2-methylpropanesulfonic acid and/or its sodium salt.

7. (new) The inverse emulsion according to claim 6 wherein the hydrophobic acrylic monomer is an ester of acrylic or methacrylic acid with C_4-C_{20} linear or branched monofunctional alcohols.

8. (new) The inverse emulsion according to claim 7 wherein the hydrophobic acrylic monomer is stearyl methacrylate or n-butyl methacrylate.

~~6.~~ 9. (currently amended) A ~~Procedure~~ procedure for the preparation of an inverse emulsion ~~characterised by~~ comprising:

a. adding to a mixture of water and one or more anionic acrylic monomers:~~,~~ ~~at least one of which containing a strongly acidic functional group,~~

an aqueous solution of an alkali to regulate ~~the~~ pH between 4 and 10~~,~~;

a cross-linking agent; and

an initiator of radical ~~polymerization~~ polymerization to form a first admixture,

while maintaining the temperature of the first admixture between 0° and 5°C;

b. preparing an oil phase containing from 0.1 to 10 ~~%~~ percent by weight of at least one hydrophobic acrylic monomer and one or more water-in-oil emulsifiers;

c. introducing the first admixture ~~obtained in a.~~ into the oil phase ~~prepared in b.~~ and emulsifying the two phases by vigorous stirring;

d. initiating a ~~the~~ ~~polymerisation~~ polymerization and completing ~~it~~ the polymerization while maintaining ~~the~~ a temperature between 55° and 95°C ~~under~~ and a vigorous stirring to prepare a second admixture; and

e. cooling the ~~reaction~~ second mixture to 35-45°C and adding thereto an oil-in-water emulsifier;

wherein the one or more anionic acrylic monomers, comprises a strongly acidic functional group; and steps a and b may be performed in any order.

~~7.~~ 10. (currently amended) The ~~Procedure~~ procedure for the preparation of an inverse emulsion according to claim ~~6.,~~ 9 wherein the anionic acrylic monomer containing a strongly acidic functional group is 2-acrylamido-2-methylpropanesulfonic acid and/or its sodium salt.

~~8.~~ 11. (currently amended) The ~~Procedure~~ procedure for the preparation of an inverse emulsion according to claim ~~7.,~~ 10 wherein the hydrophobic acrylic monomers are esters of acrylic or methacrylic acid with C_4-C_{20} linear or branched monofunctional alcohols.

~~9.~~ 12. (currently amended) The ~~Procedure~~ procedure for the preparation of an inverse emulsion according to claim ~~8.,~~ 11 wherein the hydrophobic acrylic monomers are stearyl methacrylate or n-butyl acrylate.

~~10.~~ 13. (currently amended) The ~~Procedure~~ procedure for the preparation of an inverse emulsion according to claim ~~9.,~~ 12 wherein the anionic acrylic monomers ~~dissolved in the aqueous phase~~ are a mixture of at least one monomer containing a strongly acidic functional group (AF) and one or more monomers containing a carboxylic group (AC), and wherein the weight ratio between AF and AC (AF:AC) ~~being comprised~~ is from 4:1 ~~and~~ to 1:1.

~~11.~~ 14. (currently amended) The ~~Procedure~~ procedure for the preparation of an inverse emulsion according to claim ~~10.,~~ 13 wherein the anionic acrylic monomers containing a carboxylic group are ~~chosen among~~ selected from the group consisting of acrylic acid and methacrylic acid.

~~12.~~ 15. (currently amended) The ~~Procedure~~ procedure for the preparation of an inverse emulsion according to ~~any of the claims from 6. to 11.,~~ claim 9 wherein the anionic acrylic polymer obtained by inverse emulsion ~~polymensation~~ polymerization is cross-linked with from 0.01 ~~%~~ percent to 1 ~~%~~ percent by weight, ~~on~~ of the total weight of the monomers, of a compound containing two or more ethylenic groups.

~~13.~~ 16. (currently amended) The ~~Procedure~~ procedure for the preparation of an inverse emulsion according to claim ~~12.,~~ 15 wherein the compound containing two or more ethylenic groups is methylene-bis-acrylamide.